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8 February 2010

Mansfield Town Council

Dear Council members and citizens of Mansfield,

This is to affirm my support for the proposed ordinances designed to protect the quality of life in residential neighborhoods. Staff have worked hard to craft tools to help address a problem that the Quality of Life committee has discussed for the past year: how to protect neighborhoods against a strong trend that favors the purchase of single-family homes by investors who pack them with renters, usually students. Whatever fine-tuning is required for these ordinances and other measures should be the subject of careful consideration, in the interests of fairness to all. In essence, though, the proposed protective measures are appropriate. Though I am a member of the Quality of Life committee, I want to be clear that I am offering these thoughts as an individual.

Here, in a nutshell, are the tools being proposed and their purpose: The recommended shift from "four unrelated people" to "three unrelated people" is an effort to blunt the profit motive driving the worst abuses. The requirements that students register and that adequate parking be designated are designed to allow town officials to monitor the number of tenants in a house, which has been a problem for the Zoning Agent to enforce. These three tools are thus complementary.

Now we have a backlash among landlords. That's understandable, and some of the opposition is founded not just in self-interest, but in idealism – a belief that "less government is better" and that Mansfield is adopting tactics more appropriate to a larger town. As a landlord myself for 36 years and one who raised some of those objections to the fees and requirements concerning water-testing and septic cleaning instituted three years ago, I would like to address the concerns of landlords in particular.

Mostly I want to say that we are all in this together, as citizens and landlords. By way of personal example, the proposed ordinance concerning three vs. four unrelated persons will hurt me financially. My wife and I own a four-bedroom house across the street. The new ordinance will restrict our ability to rent it to four students. If that is the price we have to pay for curbing the excesses of landlords who want to pack eight students into those four bedrooms, then that's okay. Not perfect, but okay. We want to live in a neighborhood, not a defacto undergraduate dorm.

To those who oppose the proposed ordinances on grounds of wanting Mansfield to remain a "small town," I ask you to consider the following. We are all faced with staggering economic pressures. The central fact is that UConn is growing quite beyond its earlier declared optimum size, and is consequently outgrowing its housing. The effects on Mansfield are immediate and serious – serious enough to require a change in our thinking from that of a laid-back small town to one of a vigilant community prepared equip itself with tools to prevent its own destruction.

Exactly how destructive this trend is cannot readily be appreciated until one has lived with it, as we have, in an older neighborhood within walking distance of the UConn campus. The issue is not just "party houses," which challenge the peace and civility of a neighborhood; it is the loss of neighborhood coherence that takes place when predominantly owner-occupied homes are taken over by absentee landlords trying to maximize profits.

Those who do not live in conspicuously vulnerable neighborhoods like ours may rationalize that this is simply the cost of UConn's expansion, and that their own neighborhoods are safe. However, as we have fielded complaints brought before the Committee on Quality of Life, it has become clear that these pressures are by no means confined to the neighborhoods surrounding the university. Any older neighborhood in Mansfield consisting of houses valued under \$300,000 is vulnerable.

I personally wish that President Mike Hogan would take some leadership on this issue. He could first of all declare an intended cap on UConn's student population. His silence simply fuels wild investment that assumes the growth is out of control, or driven – as many people believe – by UConn's own need for more tuition revenues in the form of more students. Second, he could commission a study, if none has been undertaken, aimed at understanding and mitigating the deleterious impact of UConn's growth on surrounding towns. Third, he could assume a higher profile in fostering good relations between students and neighborhoods. He has done none of these things, as far as I know. Consequently it seems to be up to the Town of Mansfield to defend itself.

To my fellow landlords, I say let's work together to help the Town fine-tune these ordinances in ways that achieve their aims without unduly punishing small landlords who are honest and not out to abuse the system.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Morse", with a stylized, flowing script.

David Morse

Cc: Mike Hogan, President UConn

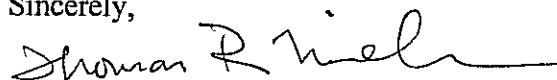
Town of Mansfield  
Town Council  
February 8, 2010

To The Members of the Town Council,

I am writing this letter to express my support to the proposition currently being weighed with respect to the changes in the existing housing code and the number of unrelated people allowed residing in a rental property. My understanding and therefore my support, comes from the fact that this proposition is intended to correct the potential of future blight and preserve the current integrity of existing residential neighborhoods. To my understanding, there is a "Grandfathering" for existing rental housing and that it would hold for the current list of rentals within the town. I support this as well since I don't feel that penalizing the landlords for purchases they have already made is appropriate. However, we do enter into an unusual argument based on the concept that if the Landlords rental income is restricted by government, it could be considered that their individual quality of life can be affected and in turn, the Landlord's right to earn income from their property can affect the quality of life for those people who exist in these aging neighborhoods that fall prey to the "income property" concept. This is very reminiscent of Joseph Heller's "Catch 22"

To summarize, I am very much in favor of limiting the number of people who can reside in future rental property (as in not currently existing as a rental unit by a date yet to be determined by you- the town council) in Mansfield. I think the University needs to rethink its student housing crisis....perhaps to the extent of limiting its growth. In 50 + years of being a Mansfield resident, I have seen the town change from rural to "faux-rural/urban sprawl" and seemingly caused by an entity that offers no benefits to the town other than possible gainful employment to some of the town's residents since it is not beholding to the town for taxes yet its very growth taxes our town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas R Nielsen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas R Nielsen  
41 Birchwood HTS  
Storrs, CT 06268

*Sharry L. Goldman*  
187 Browns Road  
Storrs, CT 06268  
860 423 2381  
[bgoldman@snet.net](mailto:bgoldman@snet.net)

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To the Mansfield Town Council:

First, in an unexpected consequence of new technology initiatives, the audio tape of the Mansfield town Council meeting of January 25, 2010 is almost inaudible, and the video tape is non-existent. I spoke extemporaneously to the council at that meeting, and neglected to provide a written statement. I have now reconstructed that statement and the notes are attached.

Tonight, I would like to return to the subject of volunteer drivers for seniors. My goal is to respond to a statement made by Human Services Director Kevin Grunwald at the previous council meeting. At that meeting, and at other presentations on volunteer drivers I've heard by Kevin, he states that "we already have Dial-a-Ride." It appears to me that one could infer from his statement that Dial-a-Ride obviates the need for a volunteer driver program. That would be a mistake. On a continuum of services from fixed-route to demand responsive, Dial-a-Ride falls somewhere in the middle. For captive riders, all service is better than nothing, but for the subset of captive riders who are elderly or frail, the ability to use anything less than demand responsive service is compromised. Services that are most highly demand-responsive are taxis and volunteer drivers. We all know that taxi service in this town has come and gone, and that it is prohibitively expensive for longer trips.

While Dial-a-Ride is a very useful service it has many limitations.

1. Dial-a ride can not go out of its district. Dial-A-Ride provides transportation service Monday through Friday within the ten-town Windham region (Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Hampton, Lebanon, Mansfield, Scotland, Willington and Windham). Hours of service vary by town.
2. Medical appointments in Hartford and visits to in-patients at tertiary hospitals in Hartford are not accessible on Dial-a-Ride.
3. ADA Paratransit service is available to eligible individuals who are traveling within a 3/4 mile radius of a WRTD fixed-route bus service during the same days and times the fixed route service is operating. But it is only a mechanism to equalize access to WRTD's fixed route transit.
4. Dial-a-Ride does not go to Bradley airport. While Uconn offers students transportation to Bradley (\$100/round trip) their website indicates that service is not offered to community members.
5. Frail seniors waiting for return transportation on Dial-a-Ride can't withstand long waits.

6. Service ends at 4 p.m. Unexpected delays, especially in the case of medical appointments, could leave people without transit.
7. The many towns and cities that already have a volunteer driver program for seniors already have Dial-a-Ride. Volunteer driver programs are used to supplement Dial-Ride. I fail to understand what aspects of Mansfield's demographics obviate the need for the same supplemental service available in other towns.

The need for a volunteer driver program was documented in 2004 by the Commission on Aging. Since 2004, I am quite sure that new positions and even whole new departments have been created in Mansfield. At the same time, while new staff has been added elsewhere, it appears to me that seniors have actually lost service hours. For leaders with courage, difficult economic times can present opportunities. We need to practice zero-based budgeting. We can't assume that every position or task created by past councils is necessary at the same level (or even necessary at all) today. Zero-based budgeting can apply to space as well as funds. My request is that the Town Council directs the town manager to develop a concrete proposal to institute a volunteer driver system without further delay or obstruction. Mansfield residents have always given generously of our time, and are more than willing to help if the town can get this program organized, but we can't move this project down the road while barriers are being placed in our path.

Synopsis of Extemporaneous comments made by Sharry Goldman to  
Manfield Town Council  
January 25, 2010

This is my second time here in two weeks. This is unprecedented for me. I am normally here as a cheerleader, and I don't feel like a cheerleader right now. I'm upset about that and I want to get back to that role, but I can't get back to that role, as much as I love this town, until we get some work done, and that's why I'm here tonight.

It's difficult to respond to a report that hasn't been given yet, but that's the way the structure of these meetings works and I'd like to say a few words about the Senior Services Overview you have in your packet.

My overall comment is that it is difficult for me to connect this report to voluminous records on the goals of our senior citizens that I've retrieved. What I've brought tonight dates back to 2004, and it's likely that further research would yield citations before that.

I don't want to criticize those of you who weren't here then, which is most of you actually, but there is a unifying theme in a lot of the reports. What happens? Where are the action items? I think that there is consensus and we heard that consensus in testimony given by senior citizens at the previous council meeting (January 11) and tonight.

I brought with me the minutes of a meeting of the Mansfield Commission on Aging which took place September 13, 2004. Present were some of the "Superstars" of our community and Kevin Grunwald for town staff.

I'd like to draw your attention to item V: Optional Reports on Services/needs of Town Aging Populations.

- A. Health Care services: "Staff are still in the process of evaluating how best to respond to the health and wellness needs of seniors." That was 2004.
- B. Social, Recreational, Educational : "P. Hope also reported that we are working with the CT Assoc. For Community Transportation to explore the development of a Volunteer Driver Program. That was 2004. They still haven't seen action on it. In fact, they've seen a lot of trees killed for reports from the Mansfield Director of Social Service on why it can't be done. Yet Volunteer Driver programs exist in a host of Connecticut towns, including neighboring Coventry, and in towns and cities across America.
- C. Housing: Assisted Living Project: representatives from the Coalition on Assisted Living [I should note I was co-chair of that commission] visited Summerville to explore possible interest in development of a similar facility in Mansfield." The council did make progress on this item when the commissioned they Brecht report and set up a committee to find a developer in the private sector. However, the council has named a preferred developer that has a buy-in model instead of a monthly rental model. The Coalition on Assisted Living specifically recommended the monthly model, and in the intervening years, has proven

prescient. David S. Hilzenrath attracted national attention with his Washington Post article on the bankruptcies of assisted living companies which caused seniors to lose their buy-ins. Shouldn't we be revisiting Mansfield's decision?

Finally, in the same minutes under "Old Business" there is a statement from Kevin Grunwald recommending the establishment of a process for updating the long range plan (2004-2014). We only have four years to go, and I still can't find action items for this plan.

The minutes of this meeting of the Commission on Aging were delivered to the town council in their November 8, 2004 packet.

If you research the history, these same topics keep coming up, but I don't see forward movement. It would appear that some of this should be worked out at the committee level, but I don't see the process for it.

I would also like to address some specifics in the report from the Social Services director that is in your packet tonight. There are a lot of comments in the report about what cannot be done, but I don't like to start from that position. My history in this town is to see what can be done, and get there.

The only action item I can find in the report, besides changing titles and duties, was a proposal to relocate the Human Services administration. I'm not sure where that goal came from I've participated in two long-range planning activities in town, and this never came up. I wonder if it's analogous to the decision to apply for an AT&T Accelerator [sic] Grant in April 2007 to put technology in the Senior Center. Again, I don't know where that initiative came from, but it was not a goal that had been on the list.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that the goals of the Commission on Aging and the senior community in general seem to me to be consistent and clear. I really want to see action and I'm willing to take whatever steps are necessary to bring the goals to fruition.

Thank you.

February 8, 2010

TO: Mansfield Town Council

FROM: Cynara Stites  
122 Hanks Hill Road

RE: Political signs on public property

Greg Padick provided information in your packet about proposed revisions to the Town's zoning regulations on political signs.

In the last seven years, the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut has made three requests to the Mansfield Planning & Zoning Commission to repeal the zoning ordinance that limits the size of political signs, the number of political signs, and the period of time political signs can be posted.

Political speech is afforded particular First Amendment protection because it helps preserve our democracy.

In response to the ACLU-CT's most recent "request," Greg Padick and Attorney Dennis O'Brien are recommending deletion of the zoning regulation that limits on the number of signs, size of signs, and period of time the signs may be displayed. This is a victory for freedom of speech. The ACLU will be happy.

Political signs on public property

However, tonight, I want to focus on the part of that zoning regulation that prohibits political signs on public property.

I am bringing this to the Town Council because Greg Padick noted that the Town Council has the authority to make a policy that authorizes political signs on Town property.

Greg's two alternatives for wording the zoning regulation have the same effect: prohibiting political signs on a road right-of-way and outside of polling stations on election day.

1. One proposal is to re-insert the current language in this zoning regulation that states: "*Political signs shall not be located on public property, including street rights-of-way.*"
2. The alternative proposal would be to just *require that property owners give permission for posting political signs.*

Greg Padick says: The alternative "approach would effectively, if less expressly, prohibit political signs on Town property unless the Town Council, Mansfield's legislative body, establishes policy that authorizes such signage."



Please allow political signs on public property in two circumstances:

I believe that there are two circumstances when it is in the interests of the Town and the residents for the Town to allow political signs on public property:

1) Political signs may be posted on a road right-of-way with the permission of the private property owner whose property fronts on the road as long as the signs do not block drivers' line of vision.

2) Political signs may be posted at least 100 feet away from polling sites on election days.

Rationale for Cynara's proposals:

It seems to me that prohibiting political signs in front of houses and in front of polling stations would effectively prohibit political signs altogether.

The Town's prohibition of posting political signs on the Town's right-of-way effectively prevents property owners like me from posting any political signs in front of our properties because we have stone walls abutting the Town's right-of-way. Signs posted behind the Town's right-of-way may not be invisible on our dark, rural roads.

It seems to me that the most appropriate, desirable, and visible locations for political signs are in front of people's homes on the Town's right-of-way and outside the polls on election days.

Nobody will mistake political signs in front of people's houses as expressions of the Town government's point-of-view . . . just as nobody mistakes the political signs posted outside polling places on election day as expressions of the Town government's point-of-view.

I believe that the Town has more interest in encouraging voter participation in elections than in worrying about the remote possibility that political signs might have negative effects on "*neighborhoods*" and "*preserving Mansfield's scenic character*," or that political signs might create "*potential litter*."

Political speech should trump pristine landscapes any time.

The Town should be looking for ways to promote **more** – not less – political speech.

I am not bothered when I see a lot of political signs.

To the contrary, I am distressed when there are so few political signs that you can drive around town without realizing there is an upcoming election.

I say: The more political signs, the better.

I believe that it's in the Town's interest to expand the number of places where political signs can be posted in order to increase residents' awareness of elections, particularly local elections.

As you know, several budget referenda have failed to pass in Mansfield because less than 2% of registered voters turned out to vote "yes."

I urge the Town Council to use your authority to make a Town policy that permits political signs on the Town's right-of-way and outside polling stations on election day.

Please do this before the PZC finalizes its zoning regulation changes.

The Council recently approved an application for a STEAP grant for engineering, administration and construction of infrastructure for Phase 1A of the Storrs Center project.

Question 1: If this grant is not obtained, will the town need to invest an additional \$250,000 into the project for Phase 1A.?

Question 2: Since the public has been told that the Town would not have additional infrastructure investment in Storrs Center, is this expenditure for Phase 1A infrastructure the responsibility of Leyland Alliance. If this is true and the grant is received, does the Town accrue a \$250,000 credit from Leyland Alliance?

Question 3: Are there additional infrastructure investments that <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ the Town's responsibility for the other phases of the project?

The sewer grant application that is on the agenda tonight indicates that the UConn sewer line needs to be increased in size,

Question 4: Will the current sewer lines be a limiting factor in the either a start or completion of the 4 phases of the project?

Question 5: If UConn was unable to obtain budget authorization for the matching part of the federal grant, would the town need to fund the match in order for the Storrs Center project to proceed?

I request that the Council discuss their understanding of these aforementioned items and to convey specific answers to the public in a timely manner.

Richard Hossack Testimony  
2/8/10

February 10, 2010

To: Town Council Members

From: Gene Nesbitt

Chair, 4-Corners Sewer and Advisory Committee

You have before you this evening two grant request proposals concerning the development of needed infrastructure in the 4- Corners area. The first request for funding through the Connecticut DECD for sewers is also part of the larger request for the federal funding request that includes funding both sewer and water projects.


Because of the relative high costs of providing water and sewer to the area, it is appropriate that the Town of Mansfield seek grant funding to help lower the taxpayer and user costs that need to be expended to remediate the environmental and issues and to provide a needed sustainable economic base.

The Advisory Committee is currently discussing the various alternatives to completing the design phases of the project. We have received information concerning estimated costs and time-lines for the various components of the project. Given the time-lines for approval the subject state and federal grants, it is appropriate to initiate the grant requests at this time. I am personally cautiously optimistic that we will be successful in working through the design phases with a time line that will allow the Town to take advantage of federal grants if received.

At the 4-Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the members voted unanimously to support the submission of these grant proposals.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, I am asking for your favorable support of these grant applications.

Sincerely,

  
Gene Nesbitt

**Sharon A. Tyler**

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**From:** Town of Mansfield [webmaster@mansfieldct.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2010 12:38 PM  
**To:** Town Employees  
**Subject:** Town Manager's Report

**Town Manager's Office  
Town of Mansfield**

# Memo

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Matt Hart, Town Manager  
**CC:** Town Employees  
**Date:** February 8, 2010  
**Re:** Town Manager's Report

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Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

## Budget and Finance

- *Town Council Budget Retreat* - The annual budget/finance retreat will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM in the Community Room of the Mansfield Community Center.

## Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Potter Property* - Councilor Schaefer requested an update on the Potter property. The subject land locked parcel obtained by the Town from the Potter Estate was sold on 7/1/09 to Esther Cotton who owns the abutting property to the north.
- *School Building Committee Q & A Webpage* - Councilor Lindsey requested a copy of the Q & A webpage for the School Building Committee be distributed to the Council. The Board of Education staff is working to complete this webpage. We expect to be able to include the questions and answers as a communication in the February 22, 2010 Council meeting packet.
- *Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings* - Councilor Schaefer requested an update on the tax exemption for farm buildings. If the new Ordinance Development and Review Subcommittee is created and the Council wishes to renew their work on the ordinance, Council may want to refer this item to the Subcommittee for review.

## Departmental/Division News

- *Department of Fire and Emergency Services*
  - *Arson Fires* - As you will recall, during the fall of 2006 there were a number of arson fires in Mansfield and surrounding communities. On Friday January 29, 2010, Thomas Nedweden was convicted of a number of first and third degree arson charges for these fires as well as charges for additional offences. Nedweden will be serving a 20 year sentence followed by 10 years of special probation. The convictions and sentence are directly related to the perseverance, dedication and teamwork by members of the Mansfield Fire Department and Resident Troopers Office working cooperatively with CSP Eastern District Major Crime unit, State Fire

2/11/2010

Marshal Investigators, CSP Detectives from Troops C and D and Fire Marshals from the towns of Chaplin, Ashford and Hampton. While several members of the Mansfield Fire Department and Resident Troopers Office directly worked this case or provided assistance, I would like to especially thank Assistant Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal Francis Raiola for his superior work and the contributions he made to the successful investigation of these crimes.

- *Firefighter/EMT*- I am pleased to announce that Theodore Morrisette has been appointed as a full-time Firefighter/EMT to fill the second of two vacancies in the fire department. Ted has served the community for many years as a part-time firefighter and volunteer and I am confident that he will do a fine job in his new role. Congratulations Ted!
- *Ice Rescue* - On Sunday, January 31st at 3:50 p.m. members of the Mansfield Fire Department were dispatched mutual aid to Eagleville Lake on the Mansfield/Coventry town line for a person that had fallen through the ice. Mansfield Fire Department and Coventry Volunteer Firefighters Association members arrived on scene at 3:54 p.m. to find a woman approximately fifty (50) yards out on the ice near a man that was in the water. Members initiated an ice rescue operation to save the individual that had fallen through an area of thin ice (the woman was coaxed off the ice to insure she did not fall through as well). The ice rescue consisted of two MFD members donning cold water suits and going out onto the ice on an ice sled that was connected with a rope to department members on shore. As the rescuers got closer to the man the ice gave way and they had to paddle out the remaining 30 feet to reach the victim. The MFD members reached the man, secured him to the ice sled, and then the members on shore pulled the ice sled back to shore. Upon arriving back at the shore the victim was placed into a waiting ambulance and treated for hypothermia as he was being transported to Windham Community Memorial Hospital. At Windham Community Memorial Hospital the ambulance transferred the victim into the LifeStar helicopter and airlifted out to Saint Francis Hospital. The victim, a Mansfield resident, was released from the hospital without suffering any lasting injuries. The entire rescue operation took only fourteen (14) minutes from the time the department was notified of the call until the victim was leaving the scene en-route to WCMH; a very effective and well coordinated effort by all personnel at the incident. Members of the MFD that responded to the call included: Deputy Chief William Jordan, Captain Ryan Hawthorne, and Firefighters Christopher Beaulieu, Eric Beaulieu, Willard Cornell, James Galey, Brian Jones, Christopher Jones, Norm Meikle, Jennifer Moore, Juan Sanchez III, Michael Thompson and James York.

- *Town Manager's Office*

- *FY 2008-09 Annual Report* - The Town of Mansfield's 2008-09 annual report has been printed and posted on the Town's website. Copies of the report can be found at the town hall in the Town Clerk's office, the Mansfield Public Library and the Mansfield Senior Center.
- *Media Upgrade Project* - We are proud to announce the completion of our media upgrade project for the Council Chambers. Tonight is the first Council meeting the Town is broadcasting live over our public access channel 13. In addition to live broadcast, Council meetings will continue to be taped and rebroadcast per our regular schedule (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 12:00pm; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:00pm). The Town is proud to be offering this new service to its residents and wishes to thank Ric Hossak for his past volunteer work taping meetings.
- *Blue Ribbon Commission (MORE)*- As a representative of CCM and COST, I have been participating as a member of the Town Functions Subcommittee of the Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal State Grants and Mandate Relief. The Town Functions subcommittee is currently discussing opportunities, challenges and other issues related to the provision of local government services on a shared or regional basis.
- *Political Signage and Town Property* - I wish to draw your attention to communication item #8 in your Council meeting packet for updated information on this topic.
- *State of the Town* - I have been invited by the Chamber of Commerce to present a "State of the Town" address at the Chamber's meeting on March 10, 2010. The session will be held at the Nathan hale Inn and Conference Center and begin at 8:00 AM. Council members are certainly welcome; please RSVP to Sara-Ann if you wish to attend.

### Future Agendas

- *Meeting with State Legislators* - Due to an unexpected conflict, Representative Merrill was unable to meet with us

tonight. We are tentatively working to reschedule our meeting with our legislators for 7:00pm on February 22, 2010 in advance of our regular Council meeting.

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## **Major Projects**

- *Juniper Hill* - In 2007, the Town submitted a Small Cities application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for fire safety improvements to Juniper Hill Village assisted housing facility. Juniper Hill is a HUD assisted senior housing facility owned and operated by Mansfield Retirement Community, Inc., a non-profit housing corporation. In recent years, the "cottages" at Juniper Hills had been the site of two major fires; given the age and mobility concerns of the senior residents, the fire safety upgrade of these units was critical. The Town was awarded the a \$500,000 grant, which provided funding to install a fire sprinkler system throughout the cottages as well as other related fire safety improvements. The initiative was completed in 2009 and I would like to thank Maria Capriola and Jesse Shea for their good work on this project. You can view pictures of the project at [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org), "planning department," "small cities projects."

## **Upcoming Events**

- *Winter Fun Day* - The Mansfield Downtown Partnership, along with the Town of Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department and Town Manager's office, invites area residents to celebrate the season at the 4th Annual Winter Fun Day on Saturday, February 13. This free event will be held from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm outside the Mansfield Community Center. There will be a number of fun activities for all ages to enjoy, from ice skating (weather permitting) to musical performances, a horse drawn wagon, storytelling, ice sculptures and a 3-on-3 demonstration on the ice by the Northeast Youth Ice Hockey Mite House team. The popular "Wacky Hat Contest" will be held at 2:00 pm. Children are invited to wear their craziest creation or store-bought hat to Winter Fun Day and register for the contest. Prizes for Wackiest, Most Creative, and Judges' Choice will be awarded. In keeping with the community spirit of the event, a food drive to benefit the Town of Mansfield Human Services' Food Pantry will be held during Winter Fun Day. Visitors are asked to please bring a non-perishable food item to the Community Center. For more information, please contact the Mansfield Downtown Partnership: 429.2740 or [mdp@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mdp@mansfieldct.org).

## **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, February 9, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, February 9, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 9, 2010, 6:00 PM, Community Room, Mansfield Community Center
- Historic District Commission, February 8, 2010, 8:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership, February 11, 2010, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Board of Education, February 11, 2010, 7:30 PM, Southeast School
- Planning and Zoning Commission, February 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, February 16, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, February 17, 2010, 9:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, February 17, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, February 22, 2010, 1:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 22, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar at [www.MansfieldCT.org](http://www.MansfieldCT.org) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*